

5.5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVY READY GRANT PROGRAM

REPORT AUTHOR Abbey Hastie, Resource Management Technical Officer

GENERAL MANAGER Scott Hahne, Acting General Manager Operations

DEPARTMENT Sustainable Communities

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Endorse the funding application to the State Government's '*Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program*' for \$36,791 (GST Exc) for the Killaloe Waste Disposal Facility Infrastructure Upgrade Project; and
2. Contribute \$15,767 (GST Exc) (30 per cent) towards the eligible project costs; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters associated with the grant application.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program (LGLRGP) provides financial assistance to support Councils to undertake any necessary infrastructure works at waste disposal facilities required to implement the Queensland Government Waste Disposal Levy commencing 4 March 2019.

The program offers a subsidy up to 70 per cent of eligible project costs, with a total pool of \$5 million for projects that facilitate accurate collection of the levy, ensure adequate security and operational site controls and comply with environmental authority and regulatory requirements.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the funding application and approval to contribute the required 30 per cent towards eligible project costs.

BACKGROUND

The State Government will introduce a waste disposal levy in March 2019, initially set at \$70 per tonne of general waste sent to landfill. LGLRGP provides financial assistance for necessary infrastructure works at waste disposal facilities required to implement the levy.

Project proposal submissions opened 31 August and closed 5pm Friday 12 October 2018.

Killaloe Waste Disposal Facility ("Killaloe") is the largest waste facility in the Shire, receiving approximately 8,500 tonnes of waste from Council's remote transfer stations and domestic and commercial sources.

The proposed elements of the project for the Killaloe facility include:

- **Security:** lighting; CCTV for the landfill; and a barrier at the landfill access in accordance with the legislation;
- **Traffic control:** 5 x give way signs; updates to the Traffic Management Plan and line marking;
- **Signage:** information and new fees and charges signage; and
- Software upgrades for capturing weighbridge data.

COMMENT

Under the program guidelines funding may be prioritised for projects where Local Governments:

- Have waste disposal facilities with environmental authorities to dispose of more than 5,000 tonnes of waste;
- Are situated in the levy zone (Douglas Shire is in the zone);
- Have limited capacity to self-fund projects.

Council's Executive Leadership Team supported a submission to the program for infrastructure projects at the Killaloe site. As these projects are not budgeted for in 2018/19, as the levy was announced after the budget was adopted, Council approval is sought to commit funds towards eligible project costs.

PROPOSAL

The proposal is for Council to endorse the funding application to the State Government's *Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program* for \$36,791 (GST Exc) for the Killaloe Waste Disposal Facility Infrastructure Upgrade Project and approve Council's contribution of \$15,767 (30%) towards eligible project costs.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The total eligible project costs are estimated to be \$52,558 (GST Excluded), with Council seeking 70% of this cost under the grant. The required Council contribution to complete this project will need to be incorporated into the 2018/2019 capital budget should the funding application be successful.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Queensland Government Waste Disposal Levy is to be implemented and will require additional expenditure by Council to administer. Consequently, Council would have to fund a 100% of these costs whereas under the application for the *Local Government Levy Ready Grant Program* there is a potential to only have to fund 30% of costs.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Infrastructure requested under this grant is required in order to collect the correct information for the landfill levy, ensuring Council's levy liability is accurate. This infrastructure is also expected to prevent incorrect disposal in contravention of the legislation which carries heavy penalties.

Environmental: Infrastructure requested under this grant is required for implementation of the waste levy which will reduce the incentive to dispose of waste to landfill and encourage sorting of waste for reuse and recycling.

Social: Infrastructure requested under this grant includes improvements to traffic management and information signage at Killaloe Transfer Station which is expected to assist customers while visiting the facility and improve safety for users of the site.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 3 - Improve Environmental Performance

3.1.4 - Promote a culture within our communities of “zero tolerance to littering” and introduce an educational, regulatory and enforcement regime to underpin it.

3.1.5 - Investigate opportunities for improved recycling and re-use of waste deposited at landfill sites.

3.1.6 - Pursue best practice management outcomes for waste management facilities.

Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner

4.2.2 - Provide leadership to secure beneficial social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Shire.

4.2.3 - Work with regional, state, national and international stakeholders to promote beneficial partnerships to support strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Asset-Owner Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure.

Part-Funder Sharing the cost of a program or activity with other organisations.

Regulator Meeting the responsibilities associated with regulating activities through legislation or local law.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Executive Leadership Team comprising Chief Executive Officer, Acting General Manager Operations, General Manager Corporate Services; Manager Sustainable Communities, Waste Operations Field Officer, Planning Officer, Property Officer, Grants Officer.

External: Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Map of Project Area - LGLRGP Funding **[5.5.1]**

Killaloe Waste Disposal Facility – Proposed Infrastructure under LGLRGP

Security lighting, software upgrades, CCTV on the landfill, barrier for the landfill access, traffic control and signage

